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GOVERNOR PATRICK JOINS FIREFIGHTERS TO DEDICATE DEPARTMENT OF FIRE SERVICES HEADQUARTERS IN STOW

STOW – Saturday, June 11, 2011 -- Governor Deval Patrick today joined firefighters and public safety officials to dedicate the new Department of Fire Services headquarters and fire training facility in Stow. The ceremony marks the conclusion of a successful three-year, \$43.5 million capital construction project that created 80 construction jobs and generated significant economic activity for the area.

"I am proud to dedicate this new home for the Department of Fire Services, and give my thanks to all of the public safety employees who work tirelessly to keep our communities safe," said Governor Patrick. "It is only fitting that the firefighters and public servants who come here to work or improve their skills have a top-notch facility."

"We will always value and appreciate the hard work and dedication of our firefighters and public safety officials who risk their lives to keep our cities and towns safe," said Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray. "This new facility will help ensure that they are equipped with the highest level of training and resources to safely get the job done."

The Department of Fire Services was created in 1996 by consolidating several fire related agencies into one. Since then, the demands on fire prevention, hazardous materials response and the need to adequately train firefighters at every step of their careers has expanded enormously.

"The completion of this facility was achieved through a tremendous collaborative effort by the Patrick-Murray Administration, the fire chiefs and public safety officials across the region," said Public Safety Secretary Mary Beth Heffernan. "This day is long overdue."

The facility employs "green" technology, including a water recovery and treatment system that is capable of capturing, treating and recycling up to 75 percent of the water used during training. It also uses energy efficient lighting to take maximum advantage of natural light to reduce reliance on electrical energy.

"The Division of Capital Asset Management (DCAM) is proud of the completion of the Department of Fire Services Stow Headquarters because it supports the Patrick-Murray Administration's vision and plan for growth and investment," said DCAM Commissioner Carole Cornelison. "The green design of the facility will reduce energy costs and improve safety, making it an innovative training ground for firefighters across the Commonwealth."

"We dreamed of creating a proper working environment for all of the staff of this new agency and adequate space for them to deliver services to both the fire service and the general public," said State Fire Stephen Marshal Coan. "Today we are providing a state-of-the art home for training firefighters, protecting the public and supporting fire departments."

"Today is the culmination of 30 years of tireless efforts by fire service leaders to provide this home for the Department of Fire Services that will serve firefighters and citizens for years to come," said Chief Paul Zbikowski, President of the Fire Chiefs' Association of Massachusetts.

The Division of Fire Safety is responsible for fire prevention and code enforcement, the Special Operations unit, and the State Police Fire and Explosion Investigation Section, which includes the fire investigators and the State Police Bomb Squad.

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